

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02552 221704Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 CA-01 HA-05 /024 W  
-----079402 221708Z /50

O 221645Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5574  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2552

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF MR. AND MRS. ERICKSON

REF: (A) STATE 128620 (B) YAOUNDE 2252 AND PREVIOUS

1. CHARTER PLANE WITH THREE EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO INVESTIGATE DEATH OF MR. AND MRS. ERICKSON LEFT AS PLANNED (SEE REFTTEL B). IN ORDER TO FOLLOWUP ON CONVERSATIONS OF MAY 20, DCM CALLED ON PHILEMON M. YANG, IVCE MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION, SAMUEL NGBWA, GENERAL DELEGATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, ISS-BAKARY, GENERAL DELEGATE OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE.

2. YANG ASSURED THE EMBASSY OF COOPERATION OF HIS MINISTRY AND SENT MESSAGE REQUESTING THE LOCAL PREFET TO COOPERATE WITH THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL MAKING THE ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION. SAMUEL NGBWA SAID THAT SURETE WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION AS THE GOVERNOR OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE AND PRESIDENT AHIDJO HAD HAD A CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT AND DECIDED THAT INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE HEADED BY LT. COL. OUMAROU SALY, THE COMMANDANT OF THE NORTHERN LEGION OF THE GENDARMERIE (AND THE MILITARY SECTOR COMMANDER FOR THE NORTH). ISSA-BAKARY CONFIRMED THAT COL. SALY HAD BEEN IN YAGOUA SINCE THE 18TH CONDUCTING AN ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION. HE STATED  
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THAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN YAOUNDE AND YAGOUA WERE BAD AND HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THINGS STOOD. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION THE REVEREND ERICKSON HAD BEEN KILLED BY SEVEN STAB WOUNDS IN THE TORSO AND HIS WIFE'S THROAT WAS CUT. THE BODIES WERE OUTSIDE BUT NEAR THEIR RESIDENCE. HE SAID ACCORDING HIS LATEST INFO THEY STILL DID NOT KNOW WHO DID IT OR WHAT WAS THE MOTIVE. IN HIS VIEW ROBBERY WAS NOT A MOTIVE AS NOTHING IN

THE HOUSE OR ON THE BODIES HAD BEEN DISTURBED. THE ABOVE IS REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT. UNTIL WE RECEIVE MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION ON THE RETURN OF THE TEAM CURRENTLY IN THE NORTH, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED THAT THIS NOT BE SHARED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS.

3. YANG HAS REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY SHARE THE RESULTS OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS WITH HIM AND WE HAVE AGREED TO DO SO ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. WVE ARE ALSO IN RECEIPT OF A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR. CHUTKOW OF THE PARIS BUREAU OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATHS FOR FEED TO MINNESOTA. IN ORDER MINIMIZE SPECULATION AND AVOID POSSIBLE ADVERSE PUBLICITY, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AT LEAST THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE MISSIONARY REPORTS AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT SURE OF EFFECTS OF PRIVACY ACT ON SUCH INQUIRIES AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS BEFORE 1200Z MAY 23RD.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE ASSIGNMENT OF MOST SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDER IN NORTH TO HEAD UP INVESTIGATION IS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT GURC TREATS THIS AS A SERIOUS MATTER. HOWEVER, THEY (AS WELL AS WE) ARE HAMPERED BY LACK EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS. SYTHE

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## Message Attributes

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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Subject:** DEATH OF MR. AND MRS. ERICKSON  
**TAGS:** CDES, (ERICKSON, MAYNARD), (ERICKSON, MIRIAM)  
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